

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: TUC QUIETLY TAKING ITS PLACE IN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH HEAVILY PREOCCUPIED WITH IN-
TERNAL DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THE BRITISH TUC HAS BEEN QUIETLY
PREPARING TO TAKE ITS PLACE WITHIN THE INSTITUTIONS OF
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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

MET RECENTLY AND AGREED ON A LIST OF TOP TRADE UNION LEADERS TO REPRESENT THE ORGANIZATION ON THE EC'S QUADRI-PARTITE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE WHEN IT MEETS IN LATE SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TUC'S NEW APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS REFLECTED IN A STATEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION'S MOST RECENT MONTHLY BROADSHEET "LABOUR" (JUNE) WHICH STATES: "NOW THAT THE BRITISH HAVE DECIDED TO STAY IN EUROPE, THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WILL BE GETTING STUCK IN AND MAKING SURE THE COMMUNITY WORKS." THE BROADSHEET ALSO QUOTES APPROVINGLY GENERAL SECRETARY MURRAY'S STATEMENT SHORTLY AFTER THE REFERENDUM IN WHICH HE SAID THAT SINCE THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WAS DEMOCRATIC IT ACCEPTED THE MAJORITY DECISION, AND THAT "NOW IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY WORK AS SUCCESSFULLY AS POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS BUT FOR THE CO-ORDINATED SOCIAL ADVANCE WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN SLOW IN COMING..."

3. THE TUC IS EXPECTING TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL NOMINEES TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE: GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY; PRESIDENT (MRS.) C. M. PATTERSON; AND GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS JACK JONES (TRANSPORT WORKERS), DAVID BASNETT (GENERAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS), T. PARRY (FIRE BRIGADES), LORD ALLEN, (SHOP WORKERS), R. BOTTINI (AGRICULTURAL WORKERS), AND LORD BRIGINSHAW (PRINTERS AND GRAPHICAL WORKERS). THE TUC WILL BE CONSIDERING NEXT A LIST OF NOMINEES TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR FIVE OTHER PRINCIPAL EC COMMITTEES INCLUDING THOSE DEALING WITH THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR, THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, AND HEALTH, HYGIENE AND SAFETY.

4. A TUC SOURCE SAID THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS DETERMINED TO SEND REPRESENTATION FROM ITS HIGHEST LEVEL, AND JUDGING FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHOICES, THIS CERTAINLY APPEARS TO BE THE CASE. THE GROUP IS WELL BALANCED IDEOLOGICALLY AND WAS DRAWN ESSENTIALLY FROM THE TUC'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. OUR SOURCE TELLS US THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TUC WILL KEEP ITS EC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP "UNDER REVIEW AND IF IT PROVED A WASTE OF TIME" MIGHT LOWER THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN THUS FAR VERY LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE POST-REFERENDUM DISCUSSION OF HOW THE TUC WOULD WISH TO HELP SHAPE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NOW THAT IT IS "STUCK IN."

HOWEVER, HE NOTES THAT THE MAJORITY TUC VIEW DURING THE REFERENDUM RUN-UP WAS IN FAVOR OF A "VERY LOOSE"

COMMUNITY, AND THAT A CURRENT READING OF TUC VIEWS WOULD FIND IT GENERALLY AGAINST DIRECT ELECTION OF THE UK CONTINGENT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

5. THE TUC IS, OF COURSE, IN A NEW BALL GAME AS FAR AS THE EC IS CONCERNED, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT JUST ARRIVING IN EUROPE, HAVING BEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, A FOUNDING FATHER OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION. BOTH THE TUC AND THE LABOR PARTY, FROM WHICH IT HAS TAKEN MANY OF ITS PREVIOUS CUES, MAY EVOLVE NEW IDEAS AND NEW APPROACHES AS THEY BEGIN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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